

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

July 7, 2020

The Honorable Bill Blair
Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

John Ossowski
President
Canadian Border Services Agency
140 Thad Johnson Private
Ottawa ON K1V 0R4

Dear Minister Blair and President Ossowski,

I am writing today to seek your continued assistance to find a solution to a problem affecting the Northwest Angle of Minnesota. The Northwest Angle is a small resort community that is separated from the rest of Minnesota and the contiguous U.S by a stretch of Canadian land. There are several border crossings that create access to the Angle, most prominently Roseau and Warroad in Minnesota. There has always been a good working relationship between Canadian and Minnesota residents and tourists who freely recreate and fish in the area. The current Health situation and restrictions cause a particular burden for a small number of Minnesotans who own recreational property on the Northwest Angle. They do not have access to their property, mostly because their primary residence is not the Angle. The only land access to the Angle is through Canadian land. It routinely involves checking in at a Border Crossing and crossing through Canada (primarily Manitoba) for approximately 62 miles.

I would be interested in discussing a solution for this small number of cabin owners and businesses who currently have no access to their Minnesota property. There have been a number of proposals to facilitate this country of origin transit to occur, including GPS tracking or enforceable affidavits.

It is my hopes that we could have this discussion, if at all possible, prior to a scheduled July 14th, meeting with the Lake of the Woods County Board, being held in the NW Angle, to discuss the exact challenges faced by the community due to the continued border restrictions. This meeting will be attended by a number of US government officials, and will be held regardless if land travel is not permitted, via boat.

I want to sincerely thank you for your time and interest as well as for your service to the people of Canada whom our State has long enjoyed a relationship. These are challenging times and we respect your commitment to the people.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICES